THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No Sir. During the period of six months between April-October 2003 as compared to April—October 2002 there has been an increase of 100% in number of issues (from nine to eighteen) and an increase of 102.21% in the amount (from Rs. 1353.65 crores to Rs. 2737.24 crores).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Open Sky Policy for ASEAN countries

1. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's announcement of a unilateral 'Open-Sky Policy' for the 10 member-countries grouped under the ASEAN is to expedite greater economic integration of the Indian economy with one of the fastest growing regions of the world;

(b) if so, whether under this declaration, a number of countries like Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam will be allowed to operate daily flights to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai after entering into bilateral air-services talks with India; and

(c) if so, to what extent this proposal has been accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The offer made by India to the member countries of ASEAN at ASEAN-India Summit at Bali recently allow the facility of daily services to the four metropolitan cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai and an unlimited number of flights to 18 tourist destinations in India. Requests received from the ASEAN countries within this offer would be considered without any further bilateral talks.